

understanding the "complicated" punch-card ballot. While most of these claims were made by angry Gore supporters, there are cases where these ballots are difficult to read. For instance, if you are elderly and have poor eyesight, it might be difficult to align a name to a punch hole. To eliminate, or at least reduce, the number of errors caused by misreading ballots, a simple ballot and a checking system needs to be implemented. One possible ballot style could mimic the SAT bubble answer sheets, formerly called Scantron sheets. Each candidate's name and party is listed next to the bubble that has to be filed for that candidate. These ballots would then be read by a bubble reader, and the votes tallied. Not only would the system be accurate, it would also allow for quick recounts. Granted, the method is similar to the optical vote-o-matic system, but the College Boards have been using bubble sheets for years without any major problems, unlike the optical vote-o-matic system, which has been proven inaccurate by research presented in the Bush v. Gore U.S. Supreme Court case. To increase voter confidence that their vote will be counted correctly, a system of double-blind checking should be established. The voter would first pick up a ballot and vote, then scan it through a machine within the voting booth that tells the voter the candidates they chose. If the ballot is correct, the voter places it in the ballot box; if not, the scanning machine marks it "void," and the voter goes to be issued a new ballot (the old ballot serving as proof that they are not voting more than once). Since many states feel their voting machines cause no problems, there is no immediate justification for the expenditure of money to replace working machines. As such, the federal government should provide the money necessary for the implementation of a nationwide standard of voting and double-blind checking, and make each state upgrade its equipment so that it meets this standard for any federal election. This would be expensive, at first, to implement, but, in the long run, it will cut back on the number of problems that are caused by outdated equipment, and it would save on costs of staff needed to count and recount ballots. While none of these reform methods can be implemented overnight, by the 2004 presidential election, it should be possible to have at least a nationwide voting standard in action that allows for double-blind checking. As for electoral vote splitting and transferable voting, these methods would be harder to implement. While both of these methods are fair and relatively easy to incorporate into the voting process, they would require a small leap of faith by conservative Americans who maintain that the system is extremely good as it stands. This statement is true, but the U.S. electoral system has not changed much over the past 225 years, and thus little is done to correct flaws exposed periodically. If these reforms had been in place for the 2000 presidential election, the entire controversy in Florida never would have occurred, and Al Gore, the popular victor, would have won the presidency, 272 electoral votes to 266 votes. Thank you very much.

TRIBUTE TO HARRY PREGERSON

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 10, 2001

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an exceptional individual, Harry

Pregerson. He is not only the oldest active Judge of the United States Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and a man of legendary accomplishments, he is a good friend whose wise counsel I rely upon. I am pleased that he will be honored by the San Fernando Valley Bar Association on September 29, 2001, with the prestigious Stanley Mosk Legacy of Justice Award.

Judge Pregerson began his legal career, after graduating from Boalt Hall Law School, in private practice. In 1964, he was named to the Los Angeles Municipal Court and subsequently to the Superior Court. In 1967, President Johnson appointed him to the United States District Court for the Central District of California. Later, Judge Pregerson was named to the Ninth Circuit by President Carter. Each of these prestigious appointments were a direct result of his hard work, talent and dedication. During these years, he garnered an impressive reputation and earned the respect of his colleagues.

In addition to his judicial career, Judge Pregerson has been a longtime advocate for the homeless, especially homeless veterans. He has overseen the construction of thousands of dwelling units for homeless veterans in Los Angeles County. In 1988, Judge Pregerson started the Bell Homeless Shelter, a shelter which today provides a full array of social services to homeless individuals in East Los Angeles. Recently, he helped bring together local law enforcement authorities, judges and county officials to create a new program that assists veterans convicted of minor violations complete a rehabilitation program and return to a productive life. His special affinity for helping veterans probably comes from his own distinguished military service. He himself is a war veteran who was seriously wounded in the battle of Okinawa during World War II.

The San Fernando Valley Bar Association's recognition of Judge Pregerson is not surprising since the event commemorates commitment to the legal profession and the public. Judge Pregerson's distinguished service on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and numerous public service projects clearly demonstrate his very strong commitment to the law and the community.

It is my distinct pleasure to ask my colleagues to join with me in saluting Judge Pregerson for his outstanding achievements, and to congratulate him on receiving this prestigious award.

APPROVING EXTENSION OF NON-DISCRIMINATORY TREATMENT WITH RESPECT TO PRODUCTS OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB RILEY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 6, 2001

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring attention to an increasingly serious problem affecting the public trust and truth in advertising. Today as we debate H.J. Res. 51, to approve

the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment with respect to the products of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, I wish to make my colleagues in the House aware of the misleading marketing of the Vietnamese basa fish as catfish.

Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, and Louisiana farmers who endured, and continue to endure, the significant capital risk and time investment to raise catfish—notice I use the term catfish—should not be made to compete with a foreign product bearing no similarity to North American catfish. Vietnamese Pangasius, also known as the basa fish, has flooded the American market and now accounts for 20% of all catfish sold in the United States. This basa fish, however, is not catfish yet it is labeled catfish and even bears the industry logo.

American catfish farmers, who have worked for over a quarter of a century and spent half a billion dollars in research and development, deserve better. They deserve the assurance that their government will take the steps necessary to ensure their product retains the public trust and is not compromised in any way. Similarly, when a consumer purchases catfish they have the right to expect they are purchasing grain-fed, pond-raised North American freshwater catfish. The basa fish, however, is not grainfed, nor pond-raised, neither is it the American species.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues carefully consider the erroneous marketing of basa fish before reaching any decision on extending nondiscriminatory treatment to the products of Vietnam.

IN RECOGNITION OF OPPORTUNITY, INC. ON THEIR 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MARK STEVEN KIRK

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 10, 2001

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to recognize Opportunity, Inc. an exceptional organization located in Highland Park, Illinois. This extraordinary enterprise is a fine example of the initiative needed to help more people move from welfare to work allowing them to pursue the American dream.

Opportunity, is a not-for-profit contract manufacturer that employs over 125 persons, most of whom have developmental, physical and/or emotional disabilities. Founded in 1976, the company's mission is both to provide a mainstream plant environment in which "Handicapable" people can reach their full potential by working and earning a paycheck and to provide customers such as Baxter International, Allegiance Healthcare, Searle, Gerber, UreSil, and Medline with the best possible service.

As everyone understands, budget constraints compel us to look for ways to effectively address important needs without government subsidies, and Opportunity is leading the way in this regard. A model of community response, entrepreneurship, and innovation, the company demonstrates how competitive and productive "Handicapable" employees can be.